

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a first device; and

a second device coupled to said first device;

wherein said first device is configured to convey a first request to said second device, wherein said second device is configured to receive said first request, wherein said second device is configured to detect a temporarily unavailable condition, wherein said second device is configured to convey a response to said first device corresponding to said first request, and wherein said response includes a delay value corresponding to said temporarily unavailable condition; and

wherein said first device and said second device are configured to cause an error recovery mechanism to be initiated in response to detecting that a retry limit corresponding to said first request is exceeded.

2. (Original) The computer system of claim 1, wherein said first device is configured to receive said response, and wherein said first device is configured to convey a second request to said second device at a time corresponding to said delay value.

3. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 1, wherein in response to receiving the first request said second device is configured to generate said delay value according to a type of said temporarily unavailable condition detected at the second device.

4. (Original) The computer system of claim 1, wherein said delay value corresponds to a first value in response to said temporarily unavailable condition corresponding to a first type of

condition and wherein said delay value corresponds to a second value in response to said temporarily unavailable condition corresponding to a second type of condition.

5. (Original) The computer system of claim 1, wherein said second device is configured to calculate said delay value using one or more variables that correspond to one or more previous temporarily unavailable conditions.

6. (Original) The computer system of claim 1, wherein said delay value corresponds to an encoded value.

7. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 1, further comprising: wherein one of different types of error recovery mechanism is to be initiated based on a type of temporarily unavailable condition at the second device

~~a policy layer coupled to said first device and said second device, wherein said policy layer is configured to cause an error recovery mechanism to be initiated in response to detecting that a retry limit corresponding to said first request is exceeded, and wherein said error recovery mechanism is configured to perform an action according to said response.~~

8. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a communications medium;

a first device coupled to said communications medium; and

a second device coupled to said communications medium;

wherein said first device is configured to receive a response from said second device indicating that said second device is temporarily unavailable, wherein said

~~response corresponds to a first request conveyed by said first device, wherein said response includes a delay value, and wherein said first device is configured to convey second request corresponding to said first request at a time corresponding to said delay value~~ convey a first request to said second device, wherein after receiving said first request said second device is configured to detect a temporarily unavailable condition, wherein said second device is configured to convey a response to said first device including a delay value corresponding to said temporarily unavailable condition at the second device;

wherein said second device is configured to store historical data corresponding to previous temporarily unavailable conditions, wherein said second device is configured to determine said delay value based on the stored historical data.

9. (Original) The computer system of claim 8, wherein said communications medium comprises a switching network.
10. (Original) The computer system of claim 8, wherein said communications medium comprises a shared bus.
11. (Original) The computer system of claim 8, wherein said communications medium comprises an arbitrated loop.
12. (Original) The computer system of claim 8, wherein said second device is configured to calculate said delay value using one or more variables that correspond to one or more previous temporarily unavailable conditions.
13. (Original) The computer system of claim 8, wherein said delay value corresponds to an encoded value.
14. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 8, ~~further comprising: a policy layer~~

~~coupled to said communications medium, wherein said policy layer is wherein said first device and said second device are~~ configured to cause an error recovery mechanism to be initiated in response to detecting that a retry limit corresponding to said ~~second~~ first request is exceeded, and wherein said error recovery mechanism is configured to perform an action according to said response.

15. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

conveying a first request from a first device to a second device;

detecting a temporarily unavailable condition at said second device;

generating a delay value corresponding to said temporarily unavailable condition; ~~and~~

conveying a response corresponding to said first request to from said second device to said first device, wherein said response includes said delay value; ~~and~~

initiating an error recovery mechanism corresponding to said response in response to determining that a retry limit corresponding to said first request has been exceeded.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

conveying a second request from said first device to said second device at a time corresponding to said delay value.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

~~initiating an error recovery mechanism corresponding to said response in response to~~

~~determining that a retry limit corresponding to said first request has been exceeded said second device storing historical data corresponding to previous temporarily unavailable conditions and determining said delay value based on the stored historical data.~~

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

encoding said delay value prior to said conveying said response.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said generating further comprises:

determining a type of said temporarily unavailable condition; and

generating said delay value according to said type of said temporarily unavailable condition.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

generating said delay value using one or more variables that correspond to one or more previous temporarily unavailable conditions.

21. (New) The computer system of claim 1, wherein one of different types of error recovery mechanism is to be initiated based on the delay value corresponding to the response conveyed from the second device to the first device.

22. (New) The computer system of claim 1, wherein said second device is configured to generate said delay value based on a number of outstanding responses corresponding to the temporarily unavailable condition.

23. . (New) The computer system of claim 1, wherein said second device is configured to generate said delay value according to a set value for each type of temporarily unavailable condition, a programmed value for each type of temporarily unavailable condition, or a dynamically calculated value for each type of temporarily unavailable condition.

24. (New) The computer system of claim 1, wherein said second device is configured to store historical data corresponding to previous temporarily unavailable conditions, wherein said second device is configured to determine said delay value based on the stored historical data.

25. (New) The computer system of claim 24, wherein said delay value may be generated according to a static heuristic based on the previous temporarily unavailable conditions.

26. (New) The computer system of claim 24, wherein said delay value may be generated according to a dynamic algorithm based on the previous temporarily unavailable conditions.

27. (New) The computer system of claim 1, wherein said first device is configured to receive said response including the delay value, wherein said first device is configured to convey a second request to said second device at a time corresponding to the delay value, and wherein if the second device detects a temporarily unavailable condition when the second request is received at the second device, the second device is configured to determine a second delay value based on the temporarily unavailable condition detected at the second device.

28. (New) The computer system of claim 3, wherein said type of said temporarily unavailable condition is a temporarily loss of system resources, a temporary lack of processing resources on the second device, or a lack of a valid virtual to physical address translation.

29. (New) The computer system of claim 1, wherein said first device is configured to ignore said delay value received from the second device and independently determine when to send a second request.

30. (New) A computer system comprising:

a first device; and

a second device coupled to said first device;

wherein said first device is configured to convey a first request to said second device, wherein after receiving said first request said second device is configured to detect any of a plurality of temporarily unavailable conditions, wherein a delay value is associated with each of the plurality of temporarily unavailable conditions and each delay value is a programmable value;

wherein said second device is configured to convey a response to said first device including the delay value associated with a detected one of the plurality of temporarily unavailable conditions at the second device.